

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS OF *ISCHIGUALASTIA*, A
NEW GENUS OF DICYNODONT FROM ARGENTINA

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Above is given a brief account of a joint Buenos Aires-Harvard expedition to the Valley of Ischigualasto, San Juan Province, Argentina. Among the remains collected from the Ischigualasto formation, presumably of Middle Triassic age, were several skulls and parts of postcranial skeletons belonging to a new genus of large dicynodont. A preliminary diagnosis of this new genus follows below; it is named *Ischigualastia jenseni* after Mr. James Jensen, who was responsible for the extremely painstaking collection and preparation of this material.

ISCHIGUALASTIA JENSENI, gen. et sp. nov.

Holotype of I. jenseni: Number 18,055, Muséo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, consisting of skull and partial skeleton.

Geological Horizon and Locality: Ischigualasto formation (Triassic), approximately 100 m. above the base of the formation; about 2 km. north of Agua de la Peña, Ischigualasto Valley, Department of Valle Fértil, San Juan Province, Argentina.

Genotype: *Ischigualastia jenseni* Cox.

Generic and Specific Diagnosis: Large dicynodont (type skull 55 cms. long, 46 cms. broad). No teeth in upper or lower jaws. Skull triangular in dorsal view, greatest width across occiput. Very wide interorbital region, very narrow intertemporal region. Tapering snout, without nasal ridges or bosses. No pineal boss, but a slight mound in front of pineal foramen. No post-frontal bone. Parietal bone probably present. Interparietal forms whole of posterior half of intertemporal bar, widely separating squamosals from postorbitals. No sharp median intertemporal ridge. Zygomatic arches bowed outward. Sharp transition between dorsal and occipital surfaces. Occiput almost semicircular in outline. No tabular bone visible. Stapes lacks stapedia foramen. Short interpterygoid vacuity. No ectopterygoid bone. Pterygoid broadly meets maxilla. Palatine and premaxilla meet, excluding maxilla from internal nares. Palatal surface of premaxilla bears pair of anterior ridges. Premaxilla

extends some way anterior to maxilla. Ascending portion of epipterygoid slender, not expanded to form part of lateral wall of braincase. No lateral wing on dentary. Stout retro-articular process.

Five sacral ribs. Acromion process of scapula absent or vestigial. Coracoid foramen between precoracoid and scapula. Sternum constricted halfway along its length; dorsal surface bears bosses for attachment of ribs. Ulna has large olecranon process, with cartilaginous epiphysial union with rest of bone. Femur with well-developed head set off from rest of bone.

A more extensive and illustrated account of *Ischigualastia* will appear later.